

SENATE BILL 1716

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 7; Title 10 and Title 65, relative to broadband  
deployment across the state of Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

4-3-734.

(a) The department shall establish a program designed to provide access to  
computer technology and the internet to Tennesseans living throughout the state. The  
program shall be known as ConnectTN and shall be based around a statewide  
broadband expansion. The department is authorized to enter into agreements with not  
for profit organizations in order to implement the program under this section.

(b) The program shall seek to:

(1) Have full broadband deployment throughout the state by the end of  
2010;

(2) Significantly improve the use of computers and the internet by all  
Tennesseans;

(3) Provide meaningful online presence for all Tennessee communities  
that improves citizen services and promotes economic development  
through e-government, virtual education, and online healthcare or  
telemedicine; and

(4) Develop eCommunity Leadership Teams in every county that  
assemble local community leaders to develop and implement technology  
growth strategies that bring together governments, businesses, schools

and educational institutions, agriculture, libraries and community-based organizations.

(c) The commissioner shall consult with the Tennessee regulatory authority concerning this program.

(d) At the request of the department, the Tennessee regulatory authority is authorized and empowered to collect data from any public or private entity in this state relevant to assessing Tennesseans' access to broadband technologies and shall make that information available for the use of the department for any use consistent with its purposes. Such information in the possession of either the Tennessee regulatory authority or the department shall not be deemed to be a public record pursuant to § 10-7-503.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.